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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIQUOR COMMISSION REFORM ENDORSED BY HSAC

Late yesterday afternoon, the Hawaii State Association of Counties endorsed a measure to give counties the authority to control and reform their respective liquor commissions.

Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), stated, "After a series of corruption scandals that tarnished the Honolulu Liquor Commission, it is time for reform and closer oversight of our liquor administration system. The current system where the liquor commissions derive their power from the state, but are managed by the counties, leads to no oversight from either the state or counties."

State Sen. Les Ihara (D-Kaimuki, Palolo, Diamond Head) asserted, "Reforming the liquor licensing system to give the counties administrative control over the liquor commissions is a critical step in regaining citizen control over liquor regulation and ending corruption. Open and accountable government is always the best cure for dishonesty."

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